

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239455

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CHINA: WHAT ROLE FOR MADAME MAO?

CONGEN HONG KONG NOTES THE APPEARANCE OF POINTED MEDIA REFERENCES TO CHIANG CHING--SEEMINGLY DESIGNED TO DRAMATIZE HER STATUS AS AN INDEPENDENT POLITICAL ACTOR RATHER THAN AS MAO'S WIDOW. THROUGHOUT THE FUNERAL SERVICES, CHING DID NOT TAKE A SPECIAL ROLE AS WIDOW OF THE CHAIRMAN, BUT WAS SHOWN IN HER RANK ORDER AS NO. 5 AMONG THE ACTIVE, TOP LEADERSHIP. ON ONE HAND, POLITBURO MEMBERS MAY HAVE RESISTED GIVING HER THE ADDED PROMINENCE OF STANDING BY THE BIER. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE HERSELF MAY HAVE SEEN THE INDEPENDENT IMAGE AS MORE USEFUL IN THE LONG TERM. CONGEN HONG KONG CONCLUDES:

--CHIANG CHING'S OVERZEALOUS PURSUIT OF POLITICAL

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PURITY HAS NOT ENDEARED HER TO MANY ELEMENTS ACROSS

THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, AND HER FORMER ASSOCIATES
MAY NOW VIEW HER ZEALOTRY AS A POLITICAL LIABILITY.

--DESPITE HER PHYSICAL INCLUSION AMONG THE LEADERSHIP

AT THE FUNERAL, THERE MAY BE WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN
LIMITING HER INVOLVEMENT IN THE POST-MAO LEADERSHIP.
(CONFIDENTIAL) HONG KONG 11188, 9/24.

2. SISMIR OFF THE SCENE UNTIL SPRING

AMCONSUL IZMIR REPORTS THAT THE SISMIR RETURNED TO THE
ISTANBUL SHIPYARDS FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS ON
SEPTEMBER 26. THE SHIP IS NOT EXPECTED TO RESUME SURVEY
ACTIVITIES UNTIL THE SPRING. PART OF THE LAST ANNOUNCED
SURVEY WAS NOT COMPLETED DUE TO BAD WEATHER. (UNCLAS-
SIFIED) IZMIR 297, 9/26.

3. JAMAICAN OPPOSITION UNDAUNTED

JAMAICA LABOR PARTY LEADER EDDIE SEAGA RECENTLY TOLD
AMBASSADOR GERARD HE IS INCREASINGLY CONFIDENT OF HIS
ABILITY TO BEAT MANLEY IN FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS, WHICH
HE BELIEVES WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY. SEAGA:

--EXPECTS MANLEY WILL CONTINUE THE ANTI-CIA LINE
THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGN BUT QUESTIONS ITS EFFECT-
IVENESS;

--SAYS HE HAS VISITED 850 COMMUNITIES THUS FAR AND
IS ENCOURAGED BY HIS RECEPTION IN PNP STRONGHOLDS;

--BELIEVES THE RURAL JAMAICANS ARE SKEPTICAL OF
MANLEY'S RAZZLE-DAZZLE; AND

--DOES NOT THINK THE STATE OF EMERGENCY POWERS WILL
MATERIALLY AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTIONS.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: WE BELIEVE SEAGA IS A BIT TOO
SANGUINE ABOUT HIS PARTY'S PROSPECTS AND ABOUT THE
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IMPACT OF THE DESTABILIZATION CHARADE. WE ASSUME
MANLEY'S DRIVING IMPERATIVE IS RETENTION OF POWER AND
THAT HE BELIEVES THIS REQUIRES THOROUGH MANIPULATION OF
THE DESTABILIZATION GAME--INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
LINKS BETWEEN THE JLP OPPOSITION AND "SINISTER EXTERNAL
FORCES". ON THE OTHER HAND, SEAGA KNOWS HIS RURAL
JAMAICANS AND HAS COME UP WITH SOME GOOD CANDIDATES. THE
ELECTION IS A HORSE RACE. MANLEY MAY HAVE THE EDGE, BUT

ONLY BECAUSE HE CONTROLS THE SECURITY MECHANISM AND MUCH
OF THE NEWS MEDIA. (CONFIDENTIAL) KINGSTON 4106, 9/24. KISSINGER

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